

GROUP EXERCISE

Mr. Johnson, 68 years old, was seen in the Emergency Department of the rural hospital in the community that he resides, for pneumonia. Mr. Johnson has a history of emphysema and steroid treatment, and is generally tired and short of breath. His blood gases during the initial evaluation were poor, and it was determined he should transfer to a larger regional community hospital for treatment that may include a ventilator. He was hospitalized at larger community hospital for 6 days in acute care, then admitted to acute rehab due to his deconditioned state and the need to assess his ventilation with exertion and increased activity. It was determined during the rehab evaluation that he could tolerate 3 hours of therapy a day, and goals were developed for this rehab stay. His physicians believe he can make progress in his overall condition and that he is not appropriate to go home. After 3 days on rehab, Mr. Johnson could not participate in therapy for 3 hours, and it was determined that extended care would be more appropriate for his condition. The family has been staying in the larger community during Mr. Johnson's hospitalization, and knows nothing of the services offered in their community for his continued care. The patient wants to hear nothing regarding a nursing home, and has stated he wants to go home now. Mr. Johnson's family called their physician in their community to ask for advice on what to do now, and he told them he didn't know but would look into it by talking with the staff at their rural hospital.

Group 1: Case Management/Discharge Planners at the large regional hospital

1. Determine Mr. Johnson's care needs and appropriate placement options.
2. Determine how these will be explored and discussed with the patient and family.
3. Determine what communication would be required for a return to his community hospital.
4. Identify obstacles to a successful plan of care in different settings.

Group 2: Patient and Family

1. What do you need to understand about your options for care?
2. What information do you require to feel comfortable with the decisions made?
3. What questions do you have?

Group 3: Case Managers/Admission Staff at rural hospital

1. What would you tell the physician who asks what care could be arranged for Mr. Johnson?
2. What actions would you take once this was determined?
3. What is required for a successful admission to your hospital?
4. Identify obstacles to your plan.

Group 4: Physicians

1. What are your chief concerns as both the physicians of the urban hospital and the rural community hospital?
2. What communication is required to achieve your care goals for this patient?
3. Identify obstacles to your care goals.